provided for procurement of equipment for development of the Institution. These RCCs extend treatment facilities and conduct research in the field of Cancer.

News-item, "Davaon kee Sarkari Kharid Main Bhi Karodon Kai Ghapale"

1523. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Davaon kee Sarkari Kharid Main Bhi Karodon Kai Ghapale", which appeared in Navbharat Times, dated the 30th January, 2002;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(c) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The procedure for registration of firms is governed by the Medical Store's Manual and the orders issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Drugs from unregistered firms are not purchased except during emergencies like flood, drought, earthquake, cyclone etc, drugs may be purchased from unregistered firms to meet urgent requirement with the permission of the competent authority. Further, drug samples are picked up at random coded and sent to two different laboratories for testing. There have been occasional departures from the procedure due to unavoidable circumstances like compliance with urgent indents etc. Any complaint with regard to the irregularities in procedures in the procurement of drugs through Medical Store is immediately got enquired into and where necessary through CBI, to fix responsibility on the officials concerned and departmental proceedings are initiated. If any case of supply of substandard drugs comes to notice, immediate action is taken to return the available stock to the supplier firm, to get replacements.